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Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/787,462	AKIYAMA ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Lucy P. Chien	2871	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the application filed on 2/27/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-9, 14-17 and 20-37.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/27/2004</u>	7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.

Examiners Amendment

The telephone interview on September 7, 2005 about Claims 1-3,6,8,10,14,16, and 20 rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph has been withdrawn.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The title has been changed to: "Display device having flexibility and a winding axis that winds the two slidable plates"

Reasons for Allowance

Claim 6-9,14-17,20-37 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding Claim 6,

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) (Drawing 1) discloses the first thin plate (1) having flexibility and having a rolling device (6) which rolls up the first thin plate having flexibility.

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) does not disclose a second thin plate having flexibility being fixed together by a fixing portion with a first thin plate having flexibility. And a close contact member provided in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction within the main surface and which brings the first thin plate and the second thin plate

into close contact, wherein the display part is rectangular whose one side is long the first direction. And where the winding axis rolls up the two thin plates with the contact members attached.

Claim 7 is a dependent of Claim 6, therefore is allowable.

Regarding Claim 8.

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) discloses the first thin plate having flexibility and having a rolling device which rolls up the first thin plate having flexibility with a side parallel to the one side as a winding axis.

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) does not disclose a second thin plate having flexibility being fixed together by a fixing portion with a first thin plate having flexibility. And a close contact member provided in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction within the main surface and which brings the first thin plate and the second thin plate into close contact, wherein the display part is rectangular whose one side is long the first direction. And where the winding axis rolls up the two thin plates with the contact members attached.

Claim 9 is a dependent of Claim 6, therefore is allowable.

Regarding Claim 14.

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) discloses the first thin plate having flexibility and having a rolling device which rolls up the first thin plate having flexibility with the one side as a winding axis.

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) does not disclose a second thin plate having flexibility being fixed together by a fixing portion with a first thin plate having flexibility. And a close contact member provided in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction within the main surface and which brings the first thin plate and the second thin plate into close contact, wherein the display part is rectangular whose one side is long the first direction. And where the winding axis rolls up the two thin plates with the contact members attached.

Claim 15 is a dependent of Claim 6, therefore is allowable.

Regarding Claim 16,

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) discloses the first thin plate having flexibility and having a rolling device without a winding axis which rolls up the first thin plate having flexibility with a side parallel to the one side as a winding axis.

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) does not disclose a second thin plate having flexibility, and a fixing portion which fixes the first thin plate and the second thin plate together on a first direction within each main surface of the first and second thin plates, and a first close contact member which has flexibility and which is provided linearly in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction at both sides of a surface of the first thin plate which faces the second thin plate, and the second close contact member.

Claim 17 is a dependent of Claim 6, therefore is allowable.

Regarding Claim 20,

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) discloses the first thin plate having flexibility.

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) does not disclose a second thin plate having flexibility provided over the first thin plate with a fixing portion which fixes the two thin plates together on a first direction within each main surface of the first and second thin plates, and a close contact member which is provided in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction within the main surface, and which brings the first thin plate and the second thin plate into close contact, wherein the close contact member allows the first thin plate and the second thin plate to be slid in the second direction.

Claim 21-27 are a dependent of Claim 6, therefore is allowable.

Regarding Claim 28,

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) discloses the first thin plate having flexibility and having a rolling device without a winding axis which rolls up the first thin plate having flexibility.

Uchikoga (JP 11-272205) does not disclose a second thin plate having flexibility, and a fixing portion which fixes the first thin plate and the second thin plate together on a first direction within each main surface of the first and second thin plates, and a first close contact member which has flexibility and which is provided linearly in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction at both sides of a surface of the first thin plate which faces the second thin plate, and the second close contact member is

slidably engaged with the first close contact member so that the first thin plate and the second thin plate are slideable in the second direction with each other.

Claims 29-37 depend on Claim 28, therefore are allowable.

However, the prior art does not disclose the display having a contact member fixing the two thin plates together and allowing the plates to be slidably engaged with the first contact member so the plates are slideable in the second direction with each other. Therefore, the present invention is considered to be patentable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lucy P. Chien whose telephone number is 571-272-8579. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571)272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lucy Chien
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

Andrew Schechter
ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER